

NSC BRIEFING

10 MARCH 1954

LEFTIST COALITION DEFEATS CONGRESS PARTY IN
TRAVANCORE-COCHIN, SOUTH INDIAN STATE

I. Current Situation

A. Socialist-Communist coalition bare
majority elections Travancore-Cochin
state.

B. Congress still largest single party.

II. Communists may enter Indian state
government.

A. First opportunity Communist participat
state government.

B. Socialist leader wants form government
with Communist support, regardless
price Communists ask. No indication
Communist demands.

C. Prospect depends attitudes Socialist
leaders on national level, some oppose
collaboration Communists, but fear
split party

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D. Socialist-Communist government could
govern as caretaker six months.

E. Period sufficient effective Communist
infiltration.

III. Outlook for continuing instability under
any conditions.

A. Congress might invoke rule by central
government -- device adopted other
cases thwart Communists.

B. Congress attitude play for time --
split leftists.

IV. Over-all significance -- popular
disillusionment Congress Party, which
still appears offer only chance longer
range stability.

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BACKGROUND

1. T-C highest literacy rate India; electorate most enlightened.
2. Most densely populated -- shares general lack development. Nixon 1953 trip noted many educated Travancore driving taxis, other menial jobs.
3. T-C has been a major area Communist strength.
4. Communalism also strong; Communist have catered to it.
5. Breakdown of seats in T-C assembly by party:
 - Congress Party.....46
 - Travancore-Tamil Nad Congress.....12
 - Leftist Coalition:
 - Communist Party of India.....23
 - Praja Socialist Party.....19
 - Revolutionary Socialist Party..... 9
 - Kerala Socialist Party..... 3
 - Independents (Leftist-supported).... 6

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